THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.—Acts i: 11.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THE Sixty-second Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened at 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, 1891, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, President Wilford Woodruff presiding.

There were on the stand: Of the First Presidency, Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith; of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Francis M. Lyman, Heber J. Grant, John W. Taylor, Mariner W. Merrill, Anton H. Lund and Abraham H. Cannon; Patriarch, John Smith; of the Presiding Council of the Seventies, Seymour B. Young, C. D. Fjelsted, B. H. Roberts and George Reynolds; of the Presiding Bishopric, William B. Preston and John R. Winder. There were also numbers of Presidents of Stakes and of other leading brethren from various parts of Utah and surrounding region.

The conference was called to order by President George Q. Cannon.

The choir and congregation sang the hymn commencing:

How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.

The opening prayer was offered by Apostle M. W. Merrill.

On the mountain tops appearing,
Lo! the sacred herald stands!

was sung by the choir, and the conference was addressed by

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF,

as follows: I want to say to my friends this morning that I am a very happy man. My heart is filled with gratitude to God my Heavenly Father for the blessings that I enjoy. It is over seven years since the Presidency of this Church and as many of the Twelve Apostles have occupied this stand until to-day, and I feel that we have all reason to thank God and

rejoice in His name for the blessings and privileges that we enjoy this glorious morning. Turning to Apostle Snow the speaker asked: Is there any law against a man telling what is in his heart if he has no evil in it?

Apostle Snow replied that he knew of none.

President Woodruff—Brother Snow says that he does not know of any such law, and therefore I say God bless President Harrison for exercising his official clemency in liberating President Joseph F. Smith, and I am thankful that Brother Smith is with us to-day. I say also, God bless every other man, whether he be Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Protestant, judge or juryman, who has lent his name to this and not only liberated President Smith but many of our brethren who have the privilege of sitting here with us on this occasion. I hope there is no harm in that thought or feeling; for that is the way I do feel at this time. My heart is full of gratitude and blessing to my fellowmen for all the good they have done. Everything that leads to good and to do good is of God; and everything that leads to evil and to do evil is said to be of the wicked one. I feel that all of us have reason to rejoice before the Lord for the deliverance and blessings which He has wrought among us. I rejoice in the union which exists among us as a Presidency of this Church and the Twelve Apostles. These are bodies of men who of all men under heaven should be united in the work of the Lord in which we are engaged. I do not believe there ever has been a body of men in any age of the world who, as a general thing, are more united and happy than are these to-day; and while we are here assembled together I hope and trust that we may have the inspiration of Almighty God with us in our teachings, in our instructions, in our counsels. We shall call upon our brothers to address us, and I say in the name of the Lord, let us all have peace.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH next addressed the assemblage. He said that, agreeable to the request of President Woodruff, he arose to speak to the Saints for a short time, according to the inspiration that he might receive and the strength and assistance that might be given him of the Lord. Of himself he felt very weak and incapable of addressing so vast a congregation as he now saw before him; he felt exceedingly humble in the sight of God.

He desired to add his acknowledgments, and also his thankfulness, to those expressed by President Woodruff, in that he was permitted to meet with the Latter-day Saints that morning. He was deeply grateful to his Heavenly Father for the privilege of meeting with them in conference in that Tabernacle for the first time in seven and a half years. To Him be given the glory and honor for every blessing that they had received; and he was also thankful to the President of the United States for exercising clemency towards him and again giving him his franchise and his citizenship in the community in which he lived. He was also most grateful to his friends who gave their influence and their assistance to this end. He need not name them, for they well knew the work that they had done. He fully acknowledged their kindness under God, and would endeavor to act consistent with the circumstances in which he was placed, and the condition in which the people of God were placed, in order that he

might be able to continue his usefulness in the midst of the people at large.

He desired to say that his faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ had undergone but one change since he met with the Saints there before. They might ask what that change was. His answer was this: "The change that has come upon my faith since I had the privilege of last meeting with you is that my faith is as much stronger, as much more fervent, as much more determined as it is possible for it to have grown in the lapse of seven and a half years. That is the only change that has come upon my faith in regard to the principles of the Gospel." He loved the Gospel a little better than he did a few years ago; he loved his brethren a little better; he was trying a little harder to be a better man to-day than was the case a few years ago; and he was endeavoring to the best of his understanding and ability to live a little nearer unto the Lord now than he did a number of years ago. These were the changes that had come upon him during his exile, during his absence from the people and from his home. He trusted that he might continue in this direction, to grow and develop in faith, in understanding, in humility, and in all the graces of the Gospel, until "the perfect day."

He desired to exhort his brethren and sisters to do likewise, to be just as faithful as it was possible for them to be, from this time henceforth and forever. They had received the truth, inasmuch as they had embraced the Gospel that had been restored to the earth in this dispensation through the Prophet Joseph Smith. They were engaged in the right cause, they were walking in the right path, inasmuch as they were endeavoring to follow the precepts of that Gospel. Let them continue in that path; let the Spirit of the Lord expand their hearts and minds, enlarge their understanding, quicken their perceptive faculties, extend their sympathy and love, and increase their faith and diligence in the performance of all the duties which devolved upon them as Latter-day Saints. All would then be well with them.

The kingdom of God was the kingdom of righteousness, Christ Himself being the "chief corner stone," and the Latter-day Saints were His subjects; for they acknowledged no king but King Emanuel. He was their King, Lawgiver, and Ruler; He was their Dictator; because He dictated to them by the influences of His Holy Spirit. He inspired their hearts to do that which was right and righteous in His sight; He reproved them when they did wrong; He showed them, through the influences of His Holy Spirit, the right course—the righteous way, and He inspired their hearts to walk in that way. The kingdom of God was set up upon the earth, and Christ, their head, was King. He had said that they should be subject to kings, and to emperors, and to presidents and rulers in the midst of the children of men, and to the powers that be, and to the laws that are, until He comes "whose right it is to reign," and "subdues all things unto Himself."

This was the work in which they were engaged; this was the hope that inspired their hearts; this was the desire that was before them—that they might be subject to the powers that be, that they might work right

eousness in their day and age, that they might be faithful in the discharge of every duty devolving upon them as men and women occupying a position in the community in which they lived; that they might be pure-minded, honorable, truthful, honest and sincere in all they undertook.

While they acknowledged God as their Head, while they acknowledged Christ as their Ruler, King, Lawgiver and Preceptor, still they were subject, and always had been subject, to the governments under which they dwelt, and they expected to yield obedience unto the laws which existed, when those laws were made for the government of the children of men and for the establishment of peace and good order in the midst of the world. Where good government did not exist in this great country it was not because the form of government was not good. It was not because, as a rule, their laws were not intended to be good; but it often happened because those laws were not properly administered, or because the administration of the law was entrusted to those who were not just in their hearts.

These were circumstances that they could not control. They were creatures subject to these conditions, and must yield obedience to them. They must honor the law of God and also the law of men, and seek to be good citizens. It was the right of every individual within the sound of his voice, and throughout the world, to exercise his or her own judgment as to what was good and what was evil; and so long as every man or woman did, according to the light which he or she possessed, that which was right and avoided that which was wrong, they might continue to plead with God that the errors and evils and wrongs which existed amongst us might cease and righteousness reign in their stead. It was the duty of every one to pray to God that justice might be administered and truth upheld and sustained in the midst of the children of men everywhere.

As Latter-day Saints they believed in the Son of God, for they were Christians in every sense of the word. In believing this they did not alone depend upon that which was written in the Bible; they had not to depend entirely upon their faith in this matter. It was true that they read the Bible; they read the testimony of the ancient Apostles in the New Testament; they read the record of the Nephites on this continent, and they believed their testimonies. But over and above that, greater than all this, they had in their hearts the inspiration of the Almighty, the revelations of God to man, teaching us that these things are true and that God lived, that Jesus is His Son, that He died for the world, that His blood cleanses us from all sin, through our obedience to the principles of the Gospel, and through our fidelity to the principles of righteousness in our lives. That was why it was impossible for a man who had once received the testimony of Jesus Christ to forsake God and join the various "isms" which existed in the world to-day. They might depart from this Gospel, from religion, from Christ, from the knowledge of God, from the faith of the Gospel of the Son of God, but they became infidels. This had been proven, and was known to be the fact. How careful, then, should they be who had the privilege of knowing the truth for themselves.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

IN NORTHERN MEXICO.

[CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 685.]

However one may consider it, Mexico is an interesting country. Whether the topic is the people or the government, there is something about it altogether unique.

Though Mexico has not occupied an enviable position in the current opinion of the United States since the war of 1846, the masterly way in which the lines of her policy have been drawn since the death of the Emperor Maximilian is fast advancing her in the race for the preferments of political greatness against all the world. It will be an interesting study for the sociologist of the future to note the difference between the treatment the native races have received in this country and in the United States. Incorporated into the polity of the nation, and sometimes at the front of the government, the Indian race of Mexico has produced a number of men who will take rank among the first statesmen of the earth. With the knowledge that in whatever the nation has done for independence and improvement the part of the aborigines is conspicuous, it needs only a glance over the records of Mexico's achievements to be fully convinced of this. The statecraft manifested by the Mexican government in the construction of its railroads gives an idea of the genius of the people, and from a study of the method pursued one may get an insight into the distribution of power under the constitution.

The first railroad of Mexico, the Mexican, connecting the City of Mexico with the eastern seaboard at Vera Cruz, was completed on January 17, 1873, and since that time the railroad building of the country has for the most part been carried on in accordance with a predetermined plan, under the direction of the government. It was considered necessary by the leading minds of the nation that, in order to give the country the proper outlets for the purposes of commerce and to connect the population centres, so that troops could be sent to the seat of any possible insurrection without delay, there should be nine systems of railways, distributed over the country very much as we find them to-day.

The Mexican Railway being at that time already completed, a subsidy concession was made in 1880 for the building of the Mexican Central trunk system, traversing the middle country from the capital north to El Paso, Texas, with branches to the sea on either side. In the year following, three subsidy concessions were made, one to the Mexican National Railway, passing along the eastern side of the plateau, and connecting Laredo, Texas, with the City of Mexico; another to the International and Interoceanic Railway, crossing the isthmus of Tehuantepec, a distance of one hundred and forty miles, from ocean to ocean; and a third was obtained by General Grant, for the Mexican Southern, from Puebla to Oaxaca, serving as a continuation of the Mexican Central along the middle country to the south. The road next in order subsidized crosses the country from the harbor at Acapulco, on the Pacific, to Vera Cruz, on the Atlantic, through the capital, and is known as the Interoceanic. From Benson, Arizona, to Guaymas, on the western seaboard, the Sonora Rail-

way gives easy access to the Pacific Coast on the northwest, while the Monterey and Gulf Railway covers the coast on the Atlantic side, from the northeast to Alvarado, south of Vera Cruz. In order to complete a grand national system, or network of railways, crossing the country at convenient distances from sea to sea, east and west, and with lines running parallel with and near the coast on either side, one in the middle of the country, and one on each side at either edge of the table land, it is only necessary to complete the line along the western edge of the plateau; and that work is now being done. The new road commences at Deming, New Mexico, and passes along the western edge of the Mexican table land for six hundred miles, when it descends to the Pacific Coast at Topolobampo Bay, thence paralleling the coast to Guaymas.

Each of these roads receives a considerable subsidy from the government; but when the contract for building the Mexican Northern Pacific Railway was entered into, the executive declared that no more railroads should be subsidized in the republic; the entire Mexican Railway system was completed. There are other railways being built in Mexico, but only those mentioned in the foregoing account are subsidized.

Another thing of which Mexicans are quite as proud as of their railway building, is the heroic manner in which the government has met and overcome the influence of the Catholic church. By a number of movements covering the years from 1857 to 1873, a truly praiseworthy evolution was carried forward in the republic in this respect, under the inspiration in great part of Benito Pablo Juarez, a full-blooded Indian.

At the commencement of the movement for independence under the present constitution, the Catholic church was the established religion of Mexico, as of Spain; and the ecclesiastical tribunals exercised the right of interference with the administration of justice by civil officers. The landed property of the church amounted to about one-half of the real estate in Mexico, and the country was fairly "enthralled in fetters and darkness."

Under the recognition of the United States, President Juarez was enabled, in 1861, to carry into effect an act abolishing the church tribunals, and confiscating the unused land of the church to the service of the state. But the latter movement was not accomplished without incurring the displeasure of England, Spain and France, whose armies were at once put in action to maintain the rights of their citizens. Involved in her civil war, the protest of the United States could not induce the withdrawal of the French troops, but England and Spain received a settlement, and called off their forces. It turned out that the reparation of the wrongs of his subjects was only a pretext under which Napoleon III wished to establish in Mexico a hereditary monarchial government under a Roman Catholic emperor. Archduke Maximilian of Austria accepted the crown, but was defeated and shot in 1867, by the republican party, under Juarez. With the exception of slight intervals of dissension during the nine years succeeding the execution of Maximilian, the civil authority has been supreme in Mexico, and Catholicism and militancy alike have been relegated to the background.

But along with the readiness for heroic action, there runs in the Mexican character a childlike simplicity and a proneness to resort to expedients, not at all reassuring to the well-wishes of the republic. Notwithstanding this, however, one cannot but see that the institutions of Mexico do not rest for stability on a "paper" constitution; but the history of her struggles for independence, and the heroic efforts to hold the state apart from the church, show the foundation to be laid deep in the hearts of the people. What we see to-day simply indicates the present status of a people in the progress of a studied evolution from savagery to civilization. At the rate of progress made in the last fifteen years, three decades will place Mexico, with her friendly relations with the United States, her unbounded resources, and the susceptility of her people to improvement, in the front rank of the great powers of the earth.—*L. A. Wilson, in Deseret News.*

FACTS AND EVENTS.

The village of Rockow, in the district of Radom, Russia, was, on October 20, entirely destroyed by fire. Five children were burned to death.

A saline lake, called Alia Paakaia, has been discovered on the island of Hawaii. It is said to contain a greater proportion of salt than does the Dead Sea.

A beautiful young Jewess, Miss Alice Hecht, committed suicide on October 2, at Baltimore, U.S.A., by jumping from the Washington monument, a distance of 200 feet.

The steamer *Boston* and the barque *Charlwood* came into collision off the Eddystone lighthouse on the night of October 26. The *Charlwood* was sunk, and eleven persons were drowned.

John Greene, a San Francisco mining expert, says that the mining outlook for Alaska is wonderful, and that the product of gold will exceed that of California, which caused such excitement in 1849.

The storms of October 19 and 20 did much damage along the Atlantic seaboard, both in Europe and America, wrecking many vessels. No serious loss of life is reported, though the damage to property is heavy.

A disastrous railway accident occurred on October 21, at Monmouth, Illinois, on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railway. An express train was derailed by a misplaced switch, and fifteen passengers killed and fifty injured.

Floods in the valley of the Thames on October 25, and for several days subsequent, did considerable damage to property. On the same dates there were disastrous floods in France and Spain. Only two persons were reported drowned.

The movement among Canadians for annexation to the United States is growing in intensity. The Continental Union Club, which is laboring to secure the transfer, already has an extensive membership, and its numbers are rapidly increasing.

On the night of October 26 an attempt was made to blow up the office of the *National Free Press*, at Dublin, Ireland. A dynamite bomb was thrown through a window and exploded, partially wrecking the building, and breaking the glass in the windows of houses in the vicinity. Fortunately no one was killed.

The Socialist conference at Erfurt closed on October 21, after approving of a social reform programme, the most prominent features of which are the training of nations in arms, but no standing army; free medical attendance, free burial, direct, equal, and universal suffrage, and thirty-six hours' uninterrupted rest each week for every toiler.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1891.

THE FEELING FOR WAR IN EUROPE.

THE fact that the peace of Europe hangs on a very slender thread, which is liable to be snapped asunder at any moment, is kept constantly before the public by the excitement and alarm caused by each slight incident that is supposed to affect political issues in the European nations. That there is a general conflict impending is regarded as certain, and it is well understood that the results of the anticipated war would be more appalling than those of any conflict which has taken place during the present century. While all the nations express a desire for peace, no effort is put forth to secure anything permanent in that direction. The preparation is all for war, and to some of the great powers the only peace that is desirable is that which gratifies their ambition for territorial aggrandizement or their eagerness for revenge.

The Czar of Russia is to-day yclept by some "the peaceholder of Europe." Yet the only peace with which the grasping Muscovite would be content for even a limited space of time would be that which would drive Great Britain from eastern and central Asia, make of Turkey a Russian province, and class Austria as a dependency of the great empire under the control of Alexander III. Even then it is doubtful whether the Czar would rest satisfied while Germany held its position as a first-class power among the nations of Europe. Austria, Turkey, and Germany realize this situation, and see in the disarmament of Russia the only hope for national safety.

France, too, is discontented, and imagines that it is her destiny to dictate the terms of peace and existence to the European powers. Her burning desire for revenge upon Germany overmasters all other sentiments, and she would rejoice in the extermination of the German empire from the map; while the bulk of the inhabitants of France are eagerly praying and watching for a time when Italy will again be under the temporal rule of the pope. Nor are the French willing to even allow England the peaceable possession of her present dominion. Their respect for British valor, enforced by painful experience, makes them less demonstrative against their western neighbor than towards Germany, but there is no less a longing to see Great Britain brought down from her position as the

chief of the European powers. England, Austria, Germany and Italy are satisfied to give their attention to peaceful arts if they were permitted to do so. But the situation compels them to be ever ready to protect their interests by force of arms.

Thus all the nations of Europe are in a state of uneasiness. They are waiting, watching for the bursting of the storm. Some are impatient, some fearful; all are preparing for a desperate struggle. In France, more than the others, the warlike feeling finds expression in discussion by the populace. A Paris paper—the *Galignani Messenger*, of October 15—thus describes the condition there:

War is in the air, and "men's hearts are failing them for fear." The heart of the great French nation is hot and restless, and "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." On all sides one sees signs and hears rumblings of that bellicose spirit which preceded the events of l'Annee Terrible. In the journals, in the salons, on the boulevards, in the Bourse—in a word, wherever men "most do congregate"—are the evidences of this spirit to be observed. A vague uncertainty, a nameless fear, would seem to have taken possession of all ranks of society. The lust for retaliation is spreading among all classes, if we except the rural peasantry, with whom peace is still a passion. How quickly are the horrors of war forgotten! How soon the pleasures of peace pall! Surely it is the duty of all organs of public opinion to do their utmost in a time like this to calm men's passions, and preach peace. Nor is it less the duty of the great ones of the earth to weigh well their words before they utter them. A recent allusion to a man of whose achievements his countrymen are sensitively proud, as the "Corsican Parvenu" or the "Corsican Conqueror," was needlessly provocative. Whether the milder or the more forcible epithet were employed it could not fail to be offensive to that nation which, whatever his faults, he loved so well. A great English patriot, dying at a time when his own country was suffering from such internicine strife as she had never known before, uttered "Peace, peace!" with his last breath. It seems to us that at the present time, peace should be on all men's lips, and in all men's hearts. It is impossible to contemplate without a shudder the consequences of a struggle between the great European powers, with all the resources of the deadliest of destructives and the latest of scientific discoveries at their back. The next war will be a social cataclysm—it will do more than decimate—it will exterminate a nation!

The state of affairs in Europe to-day is food for serious reflection. Especial interest attaches to the attitude of the nations when considered in connection with other events which the voice of prophecy has pointed out as associated with the great changes of the latter days. The preaching of the Gospel of the kingdom among the nations; the commencement of the gathering of the Jews to Palestine; the famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places; the iniquity that abounds among the children of men, causing the love of many to wax cold; the wars and rumors of war, when men's hearts fail them for fear of that which is coming on the earth—all these are present at this particular period of the world's history. Some of them have been connected with other epochs, but the present is the first time since the Divine Master was nailed to the cross that all have been combined together.

When the disciples at Jerusalem inquired for the signs of the second coming of the Lord, He declared that these very conditions which we now

find in the world—all united as He described them—should be indicative of the great event; and for the benefit of the nations He uttered this prophetic warning:

Now, learn a parable of the fig tree; when its branches are yet tender, and it begins to put forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh at hand; so likewise mine Elect, when they shall see these things, they shall know that He is near, even at the doors; but of that day and hour no one knoweth; no, not the angels of God in heaven, but my Father only.

The fig tree is putting forth its leaves, and the summer is nigh at hand. The Saints—those who have received the everlasting Gospel and are observing its laws—recognize the signs of the times, and know that the coming of the Lord is drawing near. The conflict that is threatening may be deferred for a time; but the delay will be comparatively brief. The day is close at hand when war shall be poured out upon all nations, because they reject the Gospel of Christ and prefer darkness to light, contention and strife to peace and love. The hour of God's judgment upon Babylon has come, and those who would escape from the wrath and indignation which are the measure of justice for her abominations, should fail not in rendering obedience to the Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation, both in this life and the life to come. The Saints will live close to the Lord, that they may stand in holy places and be not moved. Who can abide the time of trial and judgment that is approaching, but they who are protected by the saving power of the Almighty!

J. H. A.

ARRIVALS.—The Guion steamship *Alaska* arrived at Liverpool on Monday, October 26, having on board the following Elders for the British Mission: Richard Williams and E. A. Stratford, of Ogden; Thomas D. Roberts and Willard T. Jones, Logan; James B. Bracken, Jr., Pine Valley; Henry Harker, Taylorsville; Levi John, Portage; Henry A. Woodruff, Vernal; Joseph Campbell, Providence; Charles F. Harris, Beaver; George S. Obray, Paradise; Samuel Weston, Lake Town; Charles F. Longson, Sugarhouse; W. J. Kelly and A. C. Thorne, Salt Lake City, Utah; and E. D. Solomon, of Taylor, Arizona.

RELEASES AND APPOINTMENTS.—Elder William Ogden is honorably released from his labors as Traveling Elder in the Manchester Conference, to return home.

Elders Richard Williams, Thomas D. Roberts, and Levi John are appointed to labor as Traveling Elders in the Welsh Conference.

Elder James B. Bracken, Jr., is appointed to labor as Traveling Elder in the Irish Conference.

Elder Henry Harker is appointed to labor as Traveling Elder in the Nottingham Conference.

Elder Willard T. Jones is appointed to labor as Traveling Elder in the Birmingham Conference.

Elders E. A. Stratford and Henry A. Woodruff are appointed to labor as Traveling Elders in the Manchester Conference.

Elders Joseph Campbell and Charles F. Harris are appointed to labor as Traveling Elders in the Norwich Conference.

Elder Geo. S. Obray is appointed to labor as Traveling Elder in the Liverpool Conference.

Elders Samuel Weston and E. D. Solomon are appointed to labor as Traveling Elders in the Cheltenham Conference.

Elders W. J. Kelly and A. C. Thorne are appointed to labor as Traveling Elders in the London Conference.

Elder Chas. F. Longson is appointed to labor as Traveling Elder in the Newcastle Conference.

LIVERPOOL CONFERENCE.—Meetings of the Liverpool Conference will be held at No. 10, Central Buildings, Lancaster Road, Preston, on Sunday, November 15, 1891. Services will commence at 10 a.m. and 2 and 6 p.m.

RAIN MAKING.

THE October of the *North American Review* contains two articles under the heading "Can we Make it Rain?" The first is by General Robert G. Dyrenforth, who has been attempting, and, as he believes, successfully attempting, to produce rain in districts afflicted with drought by means of dynamite and other explosives. In the second article, Professor Simon Newcomb, the eminent astronomer, tries to drown General Dyrenforth's arguments and conclusions in a cold shower of sarcasm. It has been frequently noticed that heavy cannon-firing has been followed by rain. In 1870 an American author, Mr. Edward Powers, published a book entitled "War and the Weather," in which it is stated that 198 battles of the Civil War, including every battle of importance, were immediately followed by downpours.

Results such as these, however, need very careful criticism before any definite conclusion can be drawn from them, and it occurred to several distinguished men in the United States that the question was one of sufficient importance to deserve experimental investigation. A scheme promoted in 1874 by General Garfield, General William T. Sherman, and others, fell through owing to lack of funds. But in 1890 the Hon. C. B. Farwell succeeded in obtaining from the Department of Agriculture and the American government a sum of $9,000 for a new project, which did not involve, like the former, the expense and difficulty of transporting a large number of cannon from the coast to a rainless district. General Dyrenforth was asked to take charge of the investigations, and he has now published the details of the first experiments made under his direction.

"On the 5th day of August," says General Dyrenforth, "our party arrived at Midland, Texas, a small station on the Texas and Pacific Railway, situated on the Llano Estacado, or Staked Plains, in a region which had been suffering from a severe drought of several months' duration, and a lack of good rains for several years. The party made its headquarters at a point twenty-five miles from Midland, in the midst of a dry prairie bearing little vegetation but scattered clumps of grass and low mesquite bushes, with here and there a cactus. The plan of operations

was somewhat as follows: Three lines were to be formed, each some two miles in length, and placed about one half mile apart. The first line to the windward was to consist of a large number of ground batteries, where heavy charges of dynamite and rack-a-rock powder would be fired at frequent intervals. The next line to the rear was to consist of a number of kites flown to a considerable height by electric wires, bearing dynamite cartridges suspended from them, to be fired high in the air. The third and main line was to consist of explosive balloons (filled with a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen), which would produce terrific 'airquakes' at intervals of one to two hours during the day or during the continuance of the operation."

Some difficulty was experienced with the kites, their wires being often broken by the strong winds which prevailed, and consequently the dynamite explosions at high altitudes seem to have been a failure, but the rest of the project was executed with results which are best described in General Dyrenforth's own words: "The first operation was made on August 9. At this time the balloon apparatus had not been set up, and only the first line of ground explosions was brought into action. The ground batteries were operated for about an hour, beginning at five p.m., August 9, and re-opened again for a shorter time at about seven p.m. The weather was clear on the 9th, and the barometer stood at its nominal height at seven p.m. At noon of the 10th clouds began to gather directly over the ranch, and during the afternoon and the evening a very heavy rain fell—nearly two inches—transforming the roadways into rushing torrents, and every hollow into a small lake."

The next operation was performed on August 18, the ground batteries being kept in action for twelve hours, and the balloon explosions being also brought into play. The meteorological instruments gave no indication of approaching bad weather, but "late in the afternoon heavy clouds gathered and formed, and rain fell in torrents for two and a half hours over the entire southern and eastern portion of Andrews County and most of Midland County, and the counties to the south and west of it."

The third and final operation was begun at eleven a.m., on August 20. At 3.30 the barometric pressure was slightly below the normal, but the atmosphere was very dry. The wind blew from the southeast (the usual direction) at a velocity of 18.8 miles per hour, and the sky was clear, except for a few very light scattered cumulus clouds, estimated to be at a height of more than two and a half miles. Seven balloons were exploded, and the ground batteries seem to have been in action for twelve hours. "At eleven p.m. the firing ceased, and our weary party immediately retired for the night. At three a.m., however, the heavy rolling of thunder disturbed the sleepers, and, looking out to the west and north, heavy banks of cloud were seen advancing, almost constantly lighted by most brilliant lightning. An hour later the rain began to fall in torrents on the ranch, and did not cease till eight a.m. The northern portions of this county received the most thorough watering they have had for the past three years, and the reports from incoming cowboys indicate that the storm extended over many hundreds of square miles.

"Besides these three heavy storms, which occurred after the principal operations," continues General Dyrenforth, "not less than nine showers of much less importance occurred during the sixteen days of our experiments—a most extraordinary occurrence in this locality, and especially at this season of the year. That these results were not produced at an excessive expense of material may be seen from the fact that in the entire series of experiments only two tons of iron, one ton of sulphuric acid, a quarter of a ton of chlorate of potash and manganese dioxide, and one ton of rack-a-rock powder and other explosives were consumed, none of which are expensive materials."

In the opinion of General Dyrenforth, these experiments clearly demonstrate, first, "that the concussions from explosions exert a marked and practical effect upon the atmospheric conditions in producing rainfall, probably by disturbing the upper currents;" and secondly, "that when the atmosphere is in a 'threatening' condition—which is frequently the case in most arid regions without any rain resulting—rain can be caused to fall almost immediately by jarring together the particles of moisture which hang in suspension in the air. This result was repeatedly effected during our operations, the drops sometimes commencing to fall within twelve seconds from the moment of the initial explosion."

THE DEVOTION OF A RUSSIAN WIFE.

A story from Russia is given in the current issue of the *Christian World*. It is concerned with the ill fortune of Boris Pliaskin, editor of the *Szoboda*, and his wife. The editor wrote an indignant article about the tyranny exercised by the authorities of Moscow University. This was the match to the powder. The students in great crowds thronged round the university buildings and cheered for Boris Pliaskin until the mounted Cossacks rode them down and whipped them from the square. Two hundred of them were arrested. Pliaskin was lodged in jail. The spies proved him to be an enormous influence among the university students; he himself admitted being author of the obnoxious article, and among his papers were found convincing proofs that he had been in active though innocent enough correspondence with the so-called Nihilists of Lucerne and Zurich.

The sentence of the court was that Boris Pliaskin should be sent to Siberia for life, and that he must spend ten years in penal servitude in the mines. When this happened Pliaskin had been married a little over two years. His wife was a delicate, dark-haired, large-eyed girl, full of romance and poetry, passionately attached to her husband. After the terrible sentence had been passed, Anna Michaelovna was stricken with brain fever. Three months passed before she was able to get about, and she then announced her fixed intention of joining her husband in Siberia.

In early December Anna Michaelovna left Moscow, and in three days arrived at Ekaterinenburg, on the confines of Siberia. The railway went no further, and the only mode of transit now at her disposal was the Siberian sledge. For eight days her way lay across the desolate Urals,

and then over the interminable plains covered with blinding snow and swept by Arctic blasts from the north. Until Tiumin was reached she allowed herself no rest night or day; dissatisfied with the speed, she would bribe the drivers to urge on their horses; she would humble herself to gruff and impertinent postmasters, if thereby she might the speedier obtain horses.

A thousand miles from Tiumin—it is so easily written—and the gilded domes of Tomsk were seen on the horizon; but it was not as a resting place that she welcomed the town, rather as a stage nearer the end of her terrible journey. From Tomsk she took horses to Irkutsk, 1,200 miles further. The dauntless girl—she was only twenty—passed day after day, week after week, in her sledge, snatching now and then troubled moments of sleep.

From Irkutsk it was two weeks' journey to Nertchinsk, where the silver and lead mines are, 4,500 miles from Moscow. She arrived, worn out with sleeplessness and fatigue, suffering agony from frost-bites on face, hands, and feet. She at once made inquiries as to the mine in which her husband was, but, until she bribed the officials, whose duty it was not to give her this information, she could obtain no clue to his whereabouts. She lost no time in reaching the lead mine where Priaskin slaved, but as she now knew that no official permission would be given her to see her husband, no visitors being admitted, she determined to accomplish her desire by strategy and bribes.

The inspector of the district she was now in would at first give no information, but Anna Michaelovna at last persuaded him to tell her exactly where her husband labored. At dead of night she made her way to the mine, and by wonderful good fortune managed to elude the sentries and overseers. She feared nothing. At the head of the shaft there was a windlass and a large basket. She knew this must be the machinery for descending to the mine, and with ready fingers she adjusted the ropes, and, entering the basket, let herself down into the black hole yawning beneath her. She said afterwards that she had no consciousness of what she was doing, that she instinctively felt Boris was near, and that she must go to him. At the bottom of the shaft she looked around and noticed the glimmer of a solitary lamp. Mad with excitement, she hastened to the narrow, damp gallery, and, falling at the feet of a wretched, crouching figure there, she moaned, "Boris, Boris," kissed his chains, and fainted.

In the morning the inspector with his guard of soldiers going their rounds noticed that the gear of shaft No. 73 was missing, and suspecting something wrong, they descended. Boris Priaskin and his wife were found locked in one another's arms, uttering incoherent words of love, and crying and laughing in turns. The inspector had his duty to do. "Prisoner, proceed with your work," he called out, and then to the guards, "Arrest this woman, and bring her before me in an hour." No friends of prisoners were allowed to settle in the district. The woman was forced back to Irkutsk, whence, after weary months of petitioning, she was ordered to return to Moscow.

UTAH NEWS.

(Summarized from Territorial papers.)

Manti, Sanpete County, is soon to be lighted with electricity.

John Barker, of Willard City, Box Elder County, has a vineyard of twelve acres, from which he has this year gathered over ten tons of grapes.

The Latter-day Saints' College in Salt Lake City has been incorporated under the laws of the Territory. The dedicatory exercises were held on October 8.

Of the prizes at the baby show of the Territorial fair, the first was taken by a girl, and the other three by boy babies. The contestants were all children between six and twelve months of age.

By the derailing of a car on the Rio Grande Western railway, in Spanish Fork Canyon, on October 14, a brakeman named John Frisk was crushed beyond recognition. He leaves a wife and one child.

There is an excitement over the discovery of gold in Farmington Canyon, four miles from the town. An assay showed $13,400 in gold and forty-five ounces of silver per ton. Hundreds of miners are flocking in, and the hill sides are reported to be dotted with gold seekers.

Frank E. McGurrin, of Salt Lake City, has again proven the victor in an international contest of stenographers and typewriters. The competition took place at Portland, Oregon, October 9. Mr. McGurrin wrote 378 words in a minute. This was ahead of all previous records. In typewriting he made a record of 114 words per minute.

On October 12 the new building erected for the Central Seminary of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, at Mill Creek, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. The edifice affords accommodations for the Church school of South Cottonwood, Union, Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood, East Mill Creek and Granite wards, the funds for its erection being donated by the Saints of those wards.

On October 8, James Straw, of Springville, was putting in a blast on the Tintic Range railway, when he accidentally ignited a fifty pound keg of black powder. When he was picked up after the explosion it was found that he had been very severely burned about the head and upper part of the body, but was not fatally injured. As his eyes were closed at the time the burning mass came in contact with his face, it is believed that his sight is not permanently injured.

The articles of incorporation of a big mining company—the Ferris—were filed in Salt Lake City on October 8. The capital stock is $6,000,000, and the incorporators are J. S. Ferris, Joshua W. Sylvester, A. F. Gregerson, James W. Sylvester, Thomas Winter, A. M. Musser, Wilford Woodruff, Geo. Q. Cannon, Jos. F. Smith, Lorenzo Snow, F. D. Richards, B. H. Schettler and Barlow Ferguson. The company own the extensive mineral lands near Marysvale, Piute County.

On Friday, September 18, 1891, Collins, the youngest son of Elder George Black, died at Monroe, Utah. Elder Black is now laboring in the Sheffield Conference, having arrived in England September 23, 1891. His wife and children accompanied him a short distance from his home at Marion, Garfield County, when he started on his mission. The child, was in poor health and died while on the return journey. Brother and Sister Black have the sympathy of the Saints in their hour of affliction.

On October 5, while sinking a well for natural gas at Lake Shore, Davis County, a strong flow was struck at a depth of 300 feet from the surface. The pressure was found to be from seventy to seventy-five pounds per square inch. When the gas was making its escape through the pipe, pieces of slate from the bottom of the well were hurled to a height of eighty feet in the air. The gas was ignited and burned in a column fifty feet high. The well was then capped to store the gas until it could be utilized for heating and illumination.